

**WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY
SUMMARY PROGRAM REVIEW ACTION REPORT
TO THE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
JANUARY, 2012**

NAME AND DEGREE LEVEL OF PROGRAM: Bachelor of Arts in History

The April, 2009 recommendation, based on the comprehensive, five-year review through 2007-2008, required the Chair to bring to the Program Review Committee, by December 1, 2011, a follow-up report addressing the following items: employer and the graduate surveys including the summary data collected in the two academic years between then and now, assessment of those data, and a plan for the use of the data in curriculum review

REPORT RESULTS:

- A survey sent to twenty-two graduates of this major was developed to answer two basic queries:
 - What kind of career can be pursued after graduating with a History degree?
 - How helpful has the History BA degree been for graduates as they face the challenges of finding employment and launching careers?
- The response rate for each of the two years was
- good and the recurrent theme was that the history major develops key foundation skills which offer a competitive advantage in the practice of almost any career.
- Some graduates find employment in those lines of work that are closely connected with history as an academic field: teaching, research, or public history. Others are employed where less emphasis is placed on the content of the history curriculum and more on the underlying sets of analytical and verbal skills that are acquired in the process of a liberal arts education in history.
- Beginning in 2011-2012, survey data will be digitized and uploaded on LiveText for ongoing assessment and curriculum review purposes.
- A survey was sent to eleven employers with a response rate of slightly under 20%. Additional efforts are underway to obtain more employer data in order to appropriately include responses in program and curriculum review.